

HEAVY LOSSES BY BOTH SIDES AS GREAT ARMIES BATTLE

into action and to penetrate to the heart of eastern Prussia.

"One may regret that our offensive campaign has not attained its end by reason of difficulties of execution which it was impossible to foresee. That would have had the effect of shortening the war. Our defensive situation, however, remains solid in the presence of an enemy already enfeebled.

"Every Frenchman will deplore the momentary abandonment of positions in territory annexed by the Germans which we had occupied. Also certain portions of our national territory will suffer unhappily because they will be the theatre of operations. This is inevitable, but it is only a temporary trial.

"German cavalry belonging to an independent division operating at the extreme right penetrated into Roubaix and Tourcoing, which are defended only by the territorial troops.

"The courage of our valiant population will support that trial with indestructible faith in the final success, which is not doubtful.

"In telling to the country the entire truth the military authorities of the Government give the strongest proof of their absolute confidence in victory, which depends only on our perseverance and tenacity."

"The general engagement continues to-day with desperation" is the wording of an official communication given out in the afternoon.

"Already both sides have suffered serious losses.

"Our armies have resolutely taken the offensive between the Moselle and Mons, in Belgium.

"A general battle is now being fought in Upper Alsace, in the Vosges Mountains and along the River Meurthe.

"The main body of the troops is under the command of Gen. Pau.

"These forces hold the front, roughly speaking, between Badonvillers and Lunéville.

"Amance, Dieulouard and Lunéville have been occupied by the Germans; otherwise the French front has not been modified.

"An army from the north of Wavre is approaching Neufchâteau and is attacking the German forces which have defiled through Luxembourg and are now upon the right bank of the Semois.

"The movements of the Germans who sought to pass our left wing were followed step by step, and their right now finds itself attacked by the left wing of our army, which is working in conjunction with the English.

"From this side the battle continued vigorously for more than twenty-four hours, the field extending over the rest of the front.

GREAT BATTLE ALONG ENTIRE LINE IS RAGING IN BELGIUM

PARIS, August 24.—The French War Office issued the following communiqué to-day:

"The great battle between the greater part of the forces of England and France against the bulk of the German army continues to-day.

"The mission of the English and French is to hold virtually the entire German army in Belgium, while our Russian allies push their success in the east. The Russians occupy territory fifty miles wide on the German frontier.

"Our armies, facing their objective points, were all set yesterday, taking everywhere a resolute offensive against the enemy's forces along the Moselle River and as far as Mons in a general battle. They are now completely engaged, and comment may be left to the combatants themselves.

"A third army from the Chimay region is moving to attack the German right between the Sambre and Meuse rivers. It is supported by an English army which set out from around Mons.

"A movement of Germans who sought to throw our left wing into disorder was followed step by step, and their right consequently now finds itself attacked by our left wing. Our army is acting in conjunction with the English army.

"The battle on this side has been going on in lively fashion for more than twenty-four hours. Along the entire remainder of our battle front our lines

are engaged in desperate conflict, and already the losses are serious on both sides.

"On our extreme left troops have been concentrated to parry any attempt on that end."

"Already both sides have suffered serious losses. Our armies have resolutely taken the offensive between the Moselle and Mons, in Belgium."

THE GERMAN FRONT.

LONDON, August 24.

Despatches received here from Rotterdam give the probable dispositions of the German troops in Belgium, based on what information has reached the Dutch city. The German right flank is described as occupying the entire territory immediately south of Antwerp and is now moving southwest toward Lille. Another column is moving on Maubeuge, fifty miles to the southeast of Lille, while a third is engaging the forts at Namur. These three bodies are estimated as having a total of about 250,000 men.

The main German army of the north, of about 300,000 men, has its front extending across from Givet, in the French Department of Ardennes, just south of Dinant, Belgium, to Thionville (Diedenhofen) in Lorraine, to the north of Metz. This army is slowly advancing with it, it is believed, the line of French defenses from Reims to Laferrière as their objective.

The main German army of the south is occupied with the French line of defenses between Verdun and Nancy.

FIGHTING HOT AT CHARLEROI. ARTILLERY DAMAGES CITY

By J. M. JEFFRIES.

Special Correspondent of The Sun and the London "Daily Mail."

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

OSTEND, August 24.

Officers who have arrived here by motor cars from Charleroi and who traversed the enemy's lines say that a battle is proceeding in the town itself.

Since yesterday morning the Germans have been attacking the city, which the French are holding. The forces have met in the streets. The Germans entered the town on the Montigny side and came out by the turning bridges in front of the railway station.

German shells are falling in the town. Houses to the left of the Hotel d'Europe, looking from the station, ap-

peared to be seriously damaged. A mass of French artillery and troops in endless lines poured out and the Germans were driven back with serious loss.

The French of all arms during the past week got considerably north of Charleroi. They occupied Gembloux, but were insufficiently supported and the infantry was obliged to withdraw from Charleroi before the German advance in force. The French infantry is now, so far as can be judged, in sufficient force to meet the Germans.

British troops are participating in the battle at another part of the line. Their role is of the highest importance.

The Germans bombarded Tumes without effect, but further north they ambushed the French in the woods.

FRANCE ADMITS GERMAN ADVANCE TOWARD NANCY

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

PARIS, August 24.

Admission of a German advance toward Nancy is made in an official statement issued by the French War Office to-day. The Germans occupy Lunéville and Amance, to the east of Nancy, about ten miles from that city, and Dieulouard about the same distance to the north.

In a statement called forth by a report of a flight by the Fifteenth Army Corps the War Office admits that there were instances of individual defection in that corps, which is in the Nancy

region. This statement is taken here as confirmation of the German report of a victory in that district.

There are reports that Nancy has been occupied, but these reports lack confirmation.

The official statement regarding the French operations in the Vosges says: "A general battle is now being fought in upper Alsace upon the Vosges Mountains and along the River Meurthe. The main body of troops is under the command of Gen. Pau. These forces hold the front roughly speaking between Badonvillers and Lunéville.



RUSSIAN ARMY'S SUCCESS

The Russians are advancing into Germany on a 150 mile front extending from Johannsburg to Soldau. They have captured and are occupying towns at from twenty to forty miles within the East Prussian border. Strong forces are pushing on toward Königsberg, which is about three hundred miles from Berlin, and expect to invest that stronghold in a few days.

According to official reports the Russians hold Lyck, Johannsburg, Ortelburg, Neidenburg, Tilsburg and Soldau. It is also reported that they have captured Insterburg, but this is not officially confirmed. Both Tilsit and Insterburg are leading railway centres of this part of Germany, and the Russians say that they hold all these railroads and are operating them, thus controlling all the more important strategic points. The fighting during the entire week has been hard and has resulted in heavy losses on both sides.

Amance, Dieulouard and Lunéville have been occupied by the Germans; otherwise the French front has not been modified.

"An army from the north is approaching Neufchâteau and is attacking the German forces, which have defiled through Luxembourg and are now upon the right bank of the Semois.

"Another army from the direction of Sedan has crossed the Department of Ardennes and is engaging the German army corps which has been proceeding between the River Lesse and the River Meuse."

Basle, Aug. 24.—Reports received here from Upper Alsace say that the Germans are making another offensive movement against the French at Muelhausen in an effort to retake that city.

ADMITS SOME FRENCH FLED.

But War Office Denies Story of Whole Corps in Panic.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

PARIS, Aug. 24.—The War Ministry's communiqué issued at 5:35 o'clock this afternoon said:

"A morning newspaper announced that a division of the 15th Corps fled before the enemy, a flight which had a grave consequence for subsequent operations. The fact presented in that form is incorrect. There were a few individual weaknesses of profoundly regrettable character, but they were followed by appropriate punishment. They did not have the importance attributed to them. It would be unjust to balance the failings of a few against the value of all the soldiers of a region where citizens, like all others, are ready to give their lives for their country."

PARIS, Aug. 24.—The Paris press is seeking to dissipate the pessimism shown since the Germans entered Brussels. M. Pichon, editor of the *Petit Journal*, who was at one time Foreign Minister, says he believes the Government might show the same confidence in public opinion shown by the Germans and give fuller information, even if the news is unfavorable, as the country has shown perfect confidence in the Government.

Despite the efforts of other army corps participating, M. Pichon says, the failure of part of the Fifteenth Army Corps resulted in a withdrawal all along the whole line. One result of this affair, which occurred on August 21, was the occupation of Lunéville by the Germans.

A rebuke has been addressed to the *Petit Parisien* for the article.

BRITISH IN FIGHTING.

War Office Announces They Took Part in Encounter at Mons.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

LONDON, Aug. 24.—The first official word that the British expeditionary force on the Continent has been engaged was given out to-day by the news bureau of the War Office in the following brief statement:

"British forces were engaged all day Sunday and until after dark with the enemy in the neighborhood of Mons, Belgium. They held their ground."

This is the first information given of the whereabouts of the British troops since the announcement that the landing had been completed on August 18.

BRITISH FLEET AT OSTEND?

Twelve Warships Said to Be Awaiting German's Arrival.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

PARIS, Aug. 24.—It is reported here that a British fleet including two dreadnoughts, two cruisers, two submarines and six destroyers is within sight of Ostend ready for action in case the Germans occupy the port.

EMBARK WOUNDED AT OSTEND.

Belgians and Germans Put on Government Ships.

By J. M. JEFFRIES.

Special Correspondent of The Sun and the London "Daily Mail."

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

OSTEND, Aug. 24, 7:30 P. M.—Wounded Belgians and Germans have been embarked on Government ships. Everything is quiet.

The railway is working again to Alost.

BERLIN STILL FAR DISTANT, SAYS RUSSIA

Continued from First Page.

The first line of the Russian army now moving in force against the entire German-Austrian frontier numbers 4,000,000 men. He declares that a second army almost as great will move behind the first to reinforce it when needed.

The correspondent adds that the Czar is now at the front with the General Staff.

FLEE FROM RUSSIANS.

German Population of Willenberg Rushing From City.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

PARIS, Aug. 25.—The French War Office issued the following:

"The German population is evacuating Willenberg, ninety-one miles south-east of Königsberg, in East Prussia, because of the arrival of Russian forces from Poland, which already have penetrated a considerable distance beyond Soldau."

ITALY MAY SOON JOIN ALLIES, LONDON HEARS

Tremendous Pressure Brought to Bear—Germany Seeking Aid Too.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

LONDON, Aug. 25.—The allies are bringing tremendous pressure to bear on Italy to join their cause. It was said on good authority here to-day. Furthermore, Italy will soon take just that step, it was asserted.

Advice from Italy in the past few days have stated that Italy was mobilizing an army of more than half a million men and that large forces were near the Austrian frontier.

It was said that Italy believes that in the event of a victory for Germany and Austria the vengeance of the two nations would fall upon her for deserting the Triple Alliance and adopting a neutral attitude.

The London newspapers have often pointed out the advantage Italy might gain by throwing her lot in with the allies. Additional territory was held out as alluring bait.

GERMANY TRYING TOO.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

ROME, Aug. 25.—The German Ambassador here has been daily in conference with high officials in an attempt to induce Italy to join Germany and Austria in the present conflict. Tunisia and Algeria have been offered, it is said. The newspapers here have been asked to urge fulfillment of the alliance obligations. So far the Ambassador's efforts have failed, both in official circles and with the newspapers.

It is fair to assume, then, that the German plan of campaign after the fall of Brussels included an advance upon the Maubeuge-Lille barrier. While both places rank as first class fortresses, neither is comparable with Antwerp, Strasbourg or Belfort. To force either or both would be a considerable task, but the Maubeuge-Lille barrier, which is the Maubeuge-Lille barrier, is a hopeless undertaking, but by no means a hopeless one.

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ANTWERP NOT BESIEGED.

Belgians Report Plains Before City Cleared of Germans.

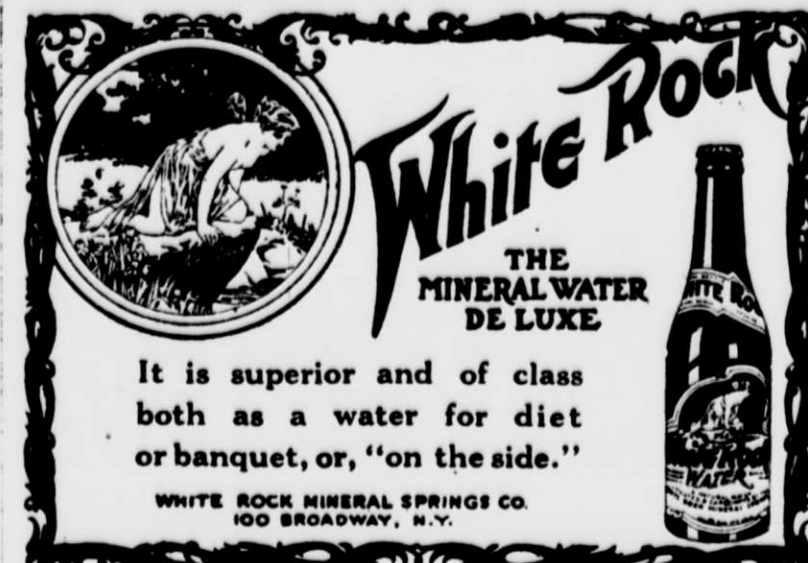
PARIS, Aug. 24.—The situation for the Belgians at Antwerp has greatly improved since yesterday, according to an official despatch received here from Antwerp. The plains in front of the city have been swept clear of detachments of German cavalry, and all the Germans who had approached Antwerp have been killed, wounded or taken prisoners.

Belgians have penetrated as far as Malines without finding any trace of the enemy, according to the despatch.

GERMANY TO HOLD BELGIUM.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

PARIS, Aug. 24.—A semi-official despatch received here from Berlin says Germany intends to retain Belgium in case of victory in the present war, and to establish a naval station at a Belgian port as a perpetual menace to England.



FRENCH CAN CHOOSE THE FIELD OF BATTLE

Germans Can Select Time, but Their Enemy Will Fix the Place.

ONLY ONE WAY TO FRANCE

Line From Maubeuge to Lille Virtually Only Possible Road.

From the EVENING SUN of yesterday.

To understand the next and second phase of the German operations in Belgium, there are certain geographical and military circumstances which must be remembered.

When the German advance stepped over into Belgium on August 3 its obvious purpose was to seize Liege and then Namur and open the road to France by the Meuse Valley. Had it succeeded the main German advance need not have gone to Brussels. The side trip to Brussels was imposed by two interdependent circumstances.

The resistance of Liege gave France time to reinforce the Belgian garrison at Namur and prevent any seizure of this fortress by a sudden attack. This closed the valley of the Meuse and the Sambre above Namur, the direct line to Paris. The prolongation of the resistance at Liege enabled the field army of Belgium to come up on the right flank of the Germans.

Under these circumstances the Germans were compelled to go west, not south as it now appears. The French and British failed to get up, apparently by a narrow margin of time, for French troops in considerable force were just south of the Belgian line at Gembloux when the Germans, by a wide sweep to the north, broke in upon the Belgians at Louvain, threatened their line of retreat upon Antwerp and thus compelled them to retire rapidly on that city. Thus by last Thursday the Germans had accomplished the task which constituted the first phase of their operations to get at France and stood in force at Brussels while their cavalry was sweeping west and north toward Ostend and Ghent.

Only One Route.

From Brussels to France three important lines of rail and roadway lead south to the French border some fifty miles away. The line which enters France at Lille, where it joins the Ghent-Antwerp-Paris line. The middle line crosses the French boundary north of Valenciennes. The eastern line joins the Liege-Paris railway. The line which enters France at Maubeuge, Maubeuge and Lille are perhaps fifty miles apart and Valenciennes is almost equidistant from both. Maubeuge and Lille are fortified towns, each surrounded by a circle of detached forts. With Valenciennes, Conde, Le Quesnoy and Mons, the last named now in Belgium, they constitute the famous "Belgian Belt," constructed by the Germans by a wide sweep to the north, broke in upon the Belgians at Louvain, threatened their line of retreat upon Antwerp and thus compelled them to retire rapidly on that city. Thus by last Thursday the Germans had accomplished the task which constituted the first phase of their operations to get at France and stood in force at Brussels while their cavalry was sweeping west and north toward Ostend and Ghent.

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